

The Pirate Substitute

A Reading A-Z Level M Leveled Book
Word Count: 636



Connections

Writing

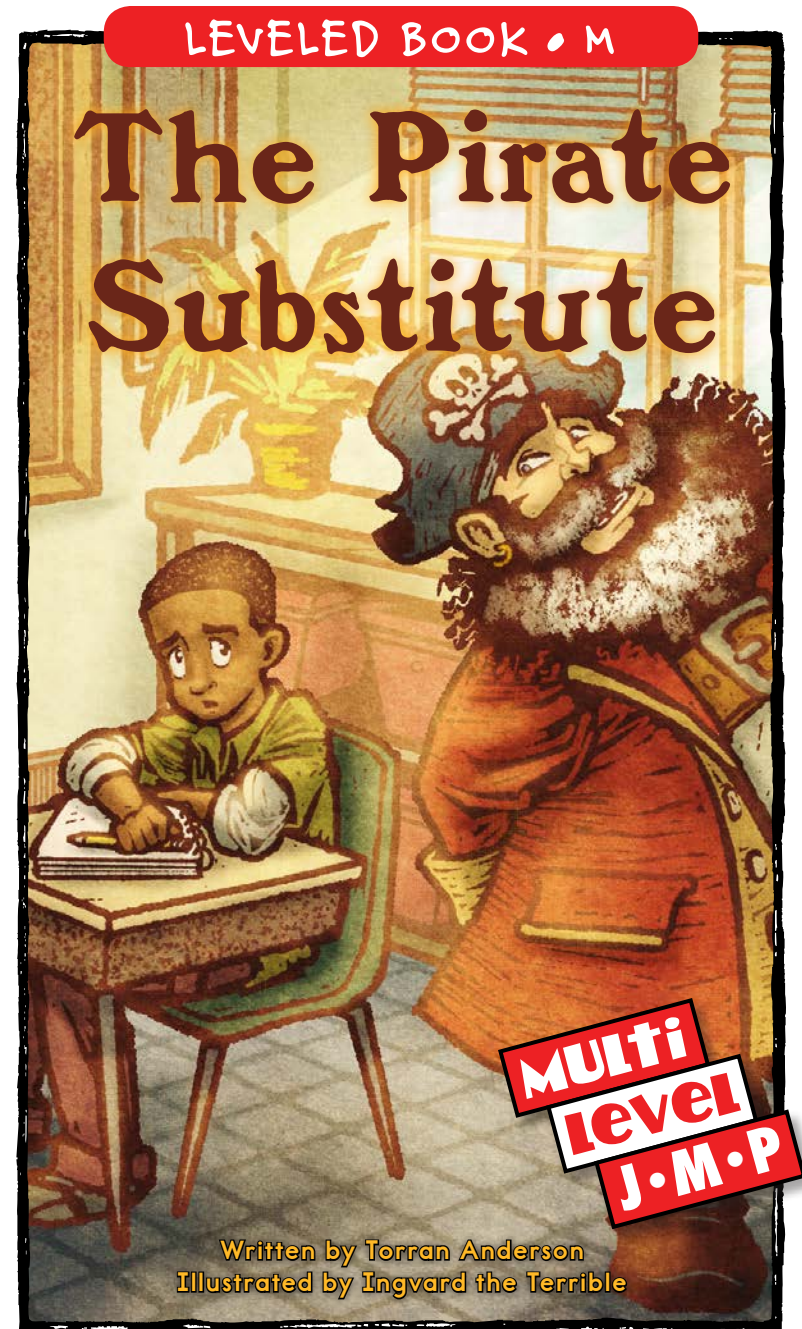
Write a fictional biography for Pirate Chalk Beard. Include his childhood, life as a pirate, and life as a substitute teacher.

Social Studies

Make your own treasure map. Share your map with a partner and ask him or her to find your buried treasure.

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The Pirate Substitute



Written by Torran Anderson
Illustrated by Ingvard the Terrible

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Focus Question

What lesson does Jack learn from Pirate Chalk Beard?

Words to Know

brim	smear
clink	substitute
geography	thumped
heave	treasure
literature	

Pirate Words to Know

ahoy—a sailor's greeting to a passing ship

booty— money or goods taken illegally or from an enemy in a time of war

scurvy dog—an insult, referring to a life-threatening illness common to early sailors that was caused by a lack of vitamin C

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Correlation

LEVEL M

Fountas & Pinnell	L
Reading Recovery	19
DRA	24



Everyone was out of their desks and playing except for Jack. It was 8:05, and Mrs. Martinez still wasn't there, which could only mean one thing: a **substitute** teacher.

The door burst open, and there stood a pirate. His peg leg **thumped** on the floor as he walked to the board.





“Me name is Pirate Chalk Beard,” he said.

He pulled back his sleeve, showing a long piece of chalk in place of a hand. The students gasped. Pirate Chalk Beard wrote his name on the board. Everyone stared except Jack, who was busy drawing.



Pirate Chalk Beard taught at lightning speed. In **Literature**, he read to them from *Treasure Island*. In P.E., they pretended the jungle gym was a pirate ship. In **Geography**, he held up a giant map and pointed out the oceans.

The students laughed and tried yelling “ahoy” and “scurvy dog.” Pirate Chalk Beard thumped to the back of the room.



“What have ye there, young Jack?” he asked. “Have ye heard a word of mine all day?”

“Aye,” said Jack.

Pirate Chalk Beard leaned over Jack’s desk. He looked at his notebook, then looked at Jack.

“May I?” he asked.

Jack nodded, and Pirate Chalk Beard lifted the notebook and stared at it for some time. It was a drawing of a pirate, surrounded by skeletons, but putting up a wonderful fight. At last, Chalk Beard handed the notebook back to Jack.





“It’s time to dig up me booty,” he said.

“Your what?” a boy asked.

“Me treasure,” Pirate Chalk Beard said. He opened his chest and pulled out shovels. He held up an old map with a black X painted on it. The treasure appeared to be near the swings.

“Arrr, it’s a beauty!” the pirate cried. He wiped away a tear with his chalk hand. It left a white smear down his cheek.

At last, he cleared his throat and stomped back to the front of the room.



“To the playground!” he cried.

The students followed their substitute teacher out the door to the playground. The class started digging. Sand flew into the air.

“Heave ho!” cried the pirate.



Finally, they heard a **clink** as they hit something solid. They helped Pirate Chalk Beard lug out an enormous wooden chest. He creaked open the lid—inside were pirate costumes. The class pulled them out in a rush. By the time Jack reached inside the treasure chest, there was nothing left.

Pirate Chalk Beard winked, took off his hat, and set it on Jack's head. "I was once a shy pirate myself, you know," he said.

"You were?" Jack asked.

"Aye," the pirate said.



Jack felt the **brim** of the large hat and smiled. "Thank you, Captain," he said.

"Arrr! You wear it well," Chalk Beard said. "Remember, matey, it isn't the size of your voice that matters. It's the size of your heart."

"I'll remember," Jack said.



Jack grinned. "I know why it takes pirates so long to learn the alphabet," he said.

"Oh?" said Chalk Beard. "And why might that be?"

"Because they spend years at C," Jack said.

Chalk Beard laughed. "So we do," he said, then stroked his beard.

"We also get stuck on 'Arrr.'"



Glossary

- brim** (*n.*) the edge that extends outward around the bottom of a hat (p. 14)
- clink** (*n.*) a light, sharp ringing sound (p. 12)
- geography** (*n.*) the natural features of Earth's surface; the study of those features (p. 6)
- heave** (*v.*) to lift (p. 11)
- literature** (*n.*) written works that have lasting value (p. 6)
- smear** (*n.*) a messy mark made by rubbing something (p. 9)
- substitute** (*n.*) someone that takes the place of another for a time (p. 3)
- thumped** (*v.*) knocked or pounded noisily (p. 4)
- treasure** (*n.*) something that is very special or valuable (p. 6)